taken by the Government have been detailed in the Mid-Year Review presented in the Rajya Sabha on 13th December, 2004.

(d) The fiscal deficit was Rs. 1,45,072 crore in 2002-03, Rs. 1,32,103 crore as per Revised Estimates for 2003-04 and the Budget Estimate for the current year is Rs. 1,37,407 crore.

Delay in withdrawal of money in Union Bank, Azamgarh

†1985. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the depositors of Union Bank's branch Thekma Bazar, district Azamgarh (U.P.) have to wait for one and half or two hours for withdrawal of money after issue of tokens;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would issue directives to ensure withdrawal of money without any delay;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Union Bank of India has reported that their Thekma Branch handles approximately 100 payments per day and the average time taken for withdrawal is 15 to 20 minutes. Although no specific complaints for delayed payment has been received either at Regional Office level or at Central Office level, the concerned Branch Manager has been instructed to ensure that the payments should be made within the stipulated time-frame.

Retired Workers of Divested PSUs

†1986. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Public Sector Undertakings which have been sold to private companies and the number of employees working in these undertakings at the time of the sale, undertaking-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of employees retrenched or given voluntary retirement after the sale of these undertakings, undertaking-wise;

(c) whether any study has been conducted by Central Government to assess the post retirement condition of the employees who have almost forced to retire; and

(d) if not, the details of the steps being taken for the welfare of such retired employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The names of the Public Sector Undertakings, which have been disinvested, the number of employees at the time of disinvestment, the number of employees retrenched and the number of employees who have taken voluntary retirement, undertaking-wise, is given in the statement, (see below)

(c) and (d) The Shareholders Agreement entered into with the Strategic Partner at the time of disinvestment ensures that wherever VRS is implemented, the benefit given to workers is the higher of terms available under the applicable law or the VRS Scheme prevailing in the company at the time of disinvestment. There have been no reports of substantiated cases of employees being forced to retire. However, as reported by M/s Bharat Hotels Ltd., the Strategic Purchaser of Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur, three employees were retrenched and retrenchment compensation was paid as per the Industrial Disputes Act. All the three employees have approached the Courts for redressal and the cases are ongoing. In the case of Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd., as reported by the Strategic Partner, M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd., 70 workers of Rasika Fruit Juice Bottling Plant, New Delhi were offered VRS, which was accepted only by 5 workers. Subsequently, the unit was closed and compensation was paid to the remaining 65 workers as per the Industrial Disputes Act. The workers have approached the Courts for redressal and the matter is under consideration in the Industrial Tribunal.

Statement

Undertaking-wise number of employees retrenched or given voluntary retirement at the time disinvestment

Sr. No.	Name of PSEs	No. of employees at the time of disinvestment	Retrenchment	VRS
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.	2037	0	988
2.	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.	6436	0	1328
3.	CMC Ltd.	3119	0	0
4.	HTL Ltd.	1138	0	114
5.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	2902	0	953
6.	IBP Co. Ltd.	2200	0	0
7.	Paradeep Phosphate Ltd.	1149	0	175
8.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	8322	0	2306
9.	Indian Petrochemical Corp Ltd.	13536	0	1738
10.	Jessop & Co. Ltd.	1423	0	0
11.	Lagan Jute Machinery Corp. Ltd.	395	NR	NR
12.	Indian Tourism Development Corp.			
	a Hotel Madurai Ashok	61	0	57
	b Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok	36	0	22
	c TABR, Mamallapuram	56	0	52
	d Hotel Ashok Bangalore	389	0	334
	e Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	214	0	211
	f LVPH, Udaipur	87	3	45
	g Hotel Manali Ashok	13	0	12
	h KABR, Kovalam	358	0	325
	i Hotel Airport Ashok, Kolkata	301	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
	j Hotel Khajuraho Ashok	0	0	0
	k Qutab Hotel, New Delhi	176	0	168
	I Hotel Varanasi Ashok	83	0	77
	m Hotel Aurangabad Ashok	10	0	0
	n Hotel Indraprastha, New Delhi	203	0	0
	o Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi	541	0	539
	p Hotel Agra Ashok	84	NR	NR
	q Hotel Hassan Ashok	27	NR	NR
	r Hotel Ranjit	99		99
13.	Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.			
	a Centaur Hotel, Bombay	791	0	715
	b Indo Hokke, Rajgir	18	0	8
	c Juhu, Mumbai	801	0	0

NR: no report from the company.

Infrastructure Bonds

1987. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICICI, IDBI or any other financial company has sought Government's permission to float infrastructure bonds during 2004-05 to enable the tax payers to invest upto the maximum limit of one lakh rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the rate of the interest to be paid by each company and whether Government's permission has been accorded thereto; and

(c) if not, whehter Government would allow investment upto one lakh rupees in GPF, PPF and other similar schemes and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected **and** will be laid on the Table of the House to extent possible.